

MEMORANDUM

September 30, 2002

TO: Governor

FROM: John

RE: Contraflow message

CC: Renick, Lee Ann, Phillip, Kelly, Boyd

We've received a call from the Times-Picayune in New Orleans regarding the contraflow situation. The reporter, Mark Schleifstein, said he had heard that you were "abandoning" the contraflow plan and was looking for a comment.

"As I said last week, we will do whatever we can to accommodate the citizens of Louisiana in the case of an evacuation, but we also have a responsibility to the citizens of Mississippi. We will not put the lives of Mississippians at risk, and by law we must provide our communities with the resources they need to meet their needs at the local levels.

"We are continuing to discuss ways to ensure a safe evacuation process for the entire Gulf Coast area, but that process cannot remove necessary resources from at-risk areas in Mississippi. The safety and security of all people – in Louisiana and Mississippi – is vitally important, and agencies in both states are working together to make sure lives are saved. If early and proper evacuation notices in New Orleans and along the Gulf Coast are heeded, lives will be saved and the need to reverse lanes will be eliminated."